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Oct.***OGC Has Reviewed***

October 1, 1954

General William J. Donovan
c/o Department of State
Washington, D. C.

Dear General Donovan:

In order to give you a starting point in clarifying certain matters relating to my service under your command in 1943 and 1944 I will try to set down briefly the substance of the account related to you in [REDACTED] about a month ago. 25X1A6a

5X1A6a The unfriendly attitude displayed by certain people in the [REDACTED] office made it quite clear to me that I was being "tarred with the same stick" as the man who recruited me and for whom I had been working in [REDACTED]. In view of that fact that I have always enjoyed a good reputation in business and official circles I feel that I can no longer afford to let this matter remain unresolved. The dirty politics and misconduct of those with whom I was so unfortunate to work can not be permitted to [REDACTED] my own future or the honor of my family. That is too great a price to pay for the privilege of serving one's country as I have always tried to do. 25X1A6a

I first suspected that harm had been done me when after apparently having been recruited for work in our old organization in 1950 I was summarily dropped from further consideration, at the instigation I believe of a man who has since risen high in the organization but whose early successes were due, ironically, to groundwork and organization which I had laid in [REDACTED].

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I was recruited by the then chief in [REDACTED] on the strength of what he knew to be my financial background and common acquaintances in the [REDACTED] financial community, and I went to [REDACTED] intent on doing a conscientious job in a field which justly could demand my fullest energies. Consequently, I was surprised to find myself plunged into a nightly round of carousing and drinking in night clubs and sundry places. This not only cut seriously into the working efficiency of myself and my chief but was contrary to all rules of mature good conduct and security. Therefore, after having "gone the rounds" and met everyone in my chief's circle of

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acquaintances I suggested as tactfully as possible that he excuse me from further participation in these parties in order that I might save my energies for the urgent matters of our official duty. It was quickly apparent that I had made an unpopular move and it was not long before I learned that my chief was seeking the services of an army Major ~~xxxx~~ formerly in the [redacted] office to replace me as "right-hand" man.

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In view of the fact that the chief was associating with a group many of whom were already discredited in more responsible American circles I continued to try to warn him and lead him away from the trouble he was obviously drifting into. Aside from the harm he was doing himself personally he was also exciting unfavorable comment among our Allied associates who took a dim view of any behavior likely to compromise security of their operations of which our office had knowledge.

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The situation was relieved somewhat during the absences of the chief on consultation in [redacted] and Washington. At this time I was free to pursue our work and lay the groundwork for further organization. At the same time I located new offices and installed ourselves in quarters more adequate to our needs and security. This involved also the installation of a clandestine radio station with its attendant problems. All this work done prior to my going to [redacted] in December, 1943, enabled successive people to move into high gear in our program as fast as they arrived. Yet no credit in our organization was ever given me. Instead, I was -- as I see it now -- exiled to [redacted] as Liaison Officer to the [redacted] office for the [redacted] office. I was "reliable" enough to be entrusted with recruitment of personnel for Balkan operations, and for the complicated task of procurement and forwarding of supplies from a theater of war through a neutral zone but my qualities as an "official jester" did not come up to par.

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In spite of the differences of opinion I held with my chief on matters affecting security I continued to exert every effort toward the success of the operation in [redacted], which I saw as being bigger than persons or personalities. For my pains I lived as a virtual outcast among the people of the [redacted] office who appeared to regard me as the "spy" of the [redacted] group and as a "pest" because of my persistent efforts on behalf of the people in [redacted]. My so-called superiors in [redacted] lacked the fortitude to back me up even as I was working for the support of his efforts.

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Under these circumstances I was only too happy to eventually return to [redacted] to settle my financial accounts and prepare to go to another organization. Without warning I had been charged with responsibility for the fiscal accounting of the mission, for which I had had no briefing whatsoever. Worse still, inadequate provision had been made for the financing of our activities and I was compelled to borrow from other American groups and our [redacted] in order to even to pay the office utility bills. Notwithstanding my peculiar position the office could find no reason why my name should not be on

a promotion list and I was duly promoted after a year of service with the organization.

25X1A6a The axe fell on my chief the summer of 1944 shortly after my return to [REDACTED]. He was a chastened and sorry man, and I, in spite of all I had tried to do found myself branded in similar manner by the [REDACTED] group. Fortunately practically everyone else who had known me and seen me work held a contrary view and when I left [REDACTED] a few months later it was with the feeling that however unpopular my decisions may have made me they had the approval of informed, and good, people. My only error was in carrying out my policies alone and quietly instead of fighting vigorously for them, and making issues of them by seeking support for my views from others. 25X1A6a

25X1A6a On returning to [REDACTED] I found a new group in charge who would have included me in groups then being set up in [REDACTED] as operations moved away from the Middle East. However, having been "once-burned" I was ready by this time to get back into uniform with the [REDACTED] and asked for reassignment in the United States in order that I might perhaps get to the Far East with the [REDACTED] 25X1C4e

In Washington I found no sympathetic hearing in the organization since I was branded there also by my original [REDACTED] associations. Hence, the clearest course of action was to get out and this I did before making my farewells to you in your office the Fall of 1944 since I did not want to risk being talked into remaining. 25X1A6a

All of which brings us down to the present time. I have finished four years of hard service in Indo-China with FOA. Here I have found the usual amount of back-biting, for which Indo-China has become notorious and without respect to persons. Nonetheless I have left there with a sense that in sticking to sound American principles I have done my job well and earned recognition for my work.

Because the various commendations I have from FOA, the Embassy, the local government, and American agencies are all classified I am unable to enclose copies of them to you now. Copies will be made available to you when I see you in Washington or New York in a few weeks. Ambassador Heath has written some special dispatches concerning my work, and when I last saw him before leaving [REDACTED] he was in the process of drafting a final dispatch about me. 25X1A6a

I regret the necessity of troubling you at this late date with this thing. Neither do I relish re-hashing matters concerning others. As I know you agree, however, it is time this was done. Again, I might point out the urgency of this matter since I am returning to Washington on October 15th for consultation and reassignment. More particularly I am hoping to transfer to the State Department in which, inspite of its "trials by newspaper", I believe one is freer to work.

Naturally I can expect to have to fight the battle of clearance all over again. Therefore, I will welcome your taking such steps as you think necessary as soon as you can. I will be in Washington only five days before returning to California [REDACTED] 25X1A6a